particulate matter and other pollutants as well as meteriological data in order to take such remedial measures as may be required. Besides, periodical chemical treatment and preservation is being carried out in phase.

(vi) Department of Environment, Government of India vide its notification dated 3rd May, 1983 has demarcated an area measuring 10,400 sq. kms. around Taj Mahal where no industry with pollution potential is allowed.

(vii) There is a ban on the use of furnance oil and diesel generators in industries in Agra. The foundaries are not permitted to operate during winter nights.

(viii) Movement of heavy vehicles around the Taj Mahal has been stopped and the parking has been shifted to Shilpgram.

(ix) Burning of rubbish near Taj has been stopped.

(x) Emission standards for vehicles have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(xi) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India is evolving guide lines to determine measures for abatement of pollution and if necessary re-define the co-ordinates of Taj TRAPEZIUM.

(e) Experts from within and outside the country are consulted as and when the necessity is felt.

**Rate of Interest Charged by G.D.A.**

*171. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ghaziabad Development Authority in its brochure for Indira Puram Scheme Code 634 had prescribed 18 per cent as rate of interest for delayed payments of instalments and 15 per cent interest in payment of regular instalments;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Authority has increased the rate of interest by 3 per cent; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Authority allows the benefit of reducing the cost calculated on the basis of 15 per cent interest, in case lump-sum payment is made in one or two instalments before taking possession of plots, payment for which is otherwise required to be made in a number of instalments in terms of the brouchure?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Ghaziabad Development Authority initially finances its projects under hire purchase scheme and Self Financing Schemes by obtaining loans from HUDCO, HDFC, P.N.B. Housing Finance Ltd. and Commercial banks. The Authority has reported that, since the cost of borrowing from these institutions has increased, the Board of Directors of Ghazibad Development Authority has decided to increase the rate of interest chargeable to allottees by 3 per cent.

(c) It has also been reported by the Authority that exemption from payment of interest is given only if the payment is made in one lumpsum. In case payment is made in instalments, interest is charged up to the date of payment of the amount.

**Misuse of Facilities Meant to the Handicapped**

*172. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the facilities being provided to the handicapped persons of the country at present;

(b) the nodal agencies involved in administering these facilities;

(c) whether it is a fact that about 70 per cent of the facilities meant for handicapped persons in the capital are being misused;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to check their misuse?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The Ministry of Welfare provides facilities like education, vocational training, economic and social rehabilitation and aids and appliances to the handicapped persons through Voluntary Organisations by giving them assistance upto 98% of their expenditure. It also provides services like education, man power development, vocational guidance, counselling and rehabilitation through National Institutes. A 3%